

REMARKS

Objections to Specification, Abstract

The Specification and Abstract are corrected as shown in the attached sheets to address the informalities objected to by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC Section 102 & 103

Clarification of the invention subject matter over prior art is submitted for purposes of advancing prosecution, and is not deemed to be a surrender of any previously recited or equivalent invention subject matter.

Main Claim 1 is amended to define the invention subject matter more distinctly over the cited prior art. The cited Jigyodan JP10-005279 reference discloses putting a hip carrier 11 under the hip 17 of the user 18 who cannot stand up by himself and using the power of a motor 10 to pick the hip of the user up. Thus, this reference teaches making the user stand up compulsorily. The Meyer reference discloses a chair having a locking element 47 for holding the chair in a locking position 45 as shown in Fig. 3 thereof. Thus, the chair is not always positioned near the user's buttocks and the user cannot sit on it unless he first unlocks it by pushing the locking lever handle 49 down. In contrast, amended Claim 1 clearly defines that the lifting device is coupled to the lifting mechanisms so as to always position a chair for supporting a user's body thereon near the buttocks of the user, which chair moves upward and downward together with the user doing the knee bending exercise. Thus, the user can stand up on his own power and can sit or have his weight supported on the chair anytime he so chooses.

The remaining dependent Claims 2-18 are maintained, with corrections consistent with the amendment of the main Claim 1 on which they depend.

Summary

In summary, the Application and Claims as amended are now deemed to be in condition for allowance, and it is requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued upon reconsideration.